

# EQUALIZING X DISTORT

Issue 1

October 2001

**INTRODUCTION:** Welcome to the first edition of the Equalizing-X-Distort monthly, our little radio zine. This is our way of keeping in touch with the folks who support the show. In this first issue we interview FUCKED UP, a new local group that played live on the show on October 7th. They are an awesome band sounding a lot like mid-period BLACK FLAG with some AGNOSTIC FRONT influence. In addition, there are some reviews and our Top 10. We would love to hear from you about scene news so write in for submissions to our rumormail section and we hope to add show listings to this mailer.

## FUCKED UP

*FUCKED UP are a band from Toronto comprised of Mike Haliechuk on guitar x-RUINATION, Josh Zucker on guitar x-YOUNGBLOOD, Jonah Falco on drums from SCARE TACTIC, Sandy Miranda on bass, and Damian Abrahms on vocals x-PROMISE KEPT. These folks are very active in the scene and do various zine, host radio shows, and get involved in activist work, as well as play in other bands. FUCKED UP have just released a demo and will be releasing an ep on Deranged in the new year. FUCKED UP played at CIUT on Sunday October 7th and here is part of the interview that was aired live on "Equalizing-X-Distort".*

**Tell us about some of the other punk rock activities you are involved with ?**

Sandy: I did a zine for three and a half years called "Second Last", but I actually haven't done an issue in about two years just because it takes so much energy to do, but I am planning on a zine focused on people in Toronto and having photographs of them and writings about them. For the past year, I have been doing a show at CKLN called "Freaks, Nerds and Romantics". It is an overnight slot every third Sunday.

**Does the new zine have a name ?**

Sandy: I was thinking about calling it "People, Places and Things".

Mike: Me and Damian are both involved in record collecting (laughter). We mostly just buy records and at home we talk about our record collections and sometimes we borrow each other's CDs.

**That's pretty unique Mike.**

Damian enters the room from upstairs and says "I am a part time poet".

**Tell us about the radio show you do.**

Damian: I have been doing a radio show for a long time. Well I was actually on CIUT for a long time. Now it's on the internet. I like to think of it as a promotion, advancing with modern technology, and "such is progress" in the words of SNAPCASE. I have been in bands a lot longer. I was actually counting the other day. I was in 10 bands in high school,

which is sad and pathetic, but I have only been doing one radio show, so it worked out okay I guess. It all balances out in the overall scheme of things.

**Josh, can you tell me about "On the Banks of the Tumid River" ?**

Josh: This was a zine that Mike and I did for a while. The last issue took two years to put out and then we only photocopied them and we ripped off all our advertisers and we are still in the process of returning all their money. Until that happens the zine is on hiatus, but it might come back under a new name and a new focus in the coming summer. **Jonah, can you tell us about the bands you are in ?**

Jonah: It started a couple of years ago when I became friends with Martin who does this show and we started a band with Jesse called BORED OF EDUCATION and went from there. I just started joining everybody's band and now I am in like 6 bands. I don't do much else other than play in bands and pretend to collect records.

**How did FUCKED UP form ? What made you all start a band with each other ?**

Mike: Josh and I were talking about NO JUSTICE and Josh said "That would be the best, to be in a band like that." We thought Josh would be the best singer so we were going to form a band with Josh singing. It was me, Josh and Chris (Colohon). Chris played drums and then he flaked.

Damian: It is Chris Colohon of LEFT FOR DEAD fame. Kind of like a celebrity. It's kind of like saying you have Tom Selleck in your band.

Mike: We played one or two shows with Josh singing and then nobody really liked Josh's voice, so we got

Damian to sing on the demo and so then Josh went on a trip and we went on a trip and when we came back this was the FUCKED UP line up.

This is going to be it until we get sick of Damian singing and then someone else will sing.

**There is a phenomenon within the scene whereby groups are forming with folks who have played in other bands. I call it the "Super-group" phenomenon because it resembles the mid-80's where groups like POWER STATION who featured**

**DURAN DURAN and ROBERT PALMER.**

As an example, these groups represent this phenomenon, which we have seen replicated in the hardcore scene in groups like THE OATH, LIMP WRIST and RAMBO. **FUCKED UP** seem to represent something like that on a local scale because you are all fairly active in the scene and have been in a lot of bands. What are some of the things that you attribute to folks in bands starting new bands with other folks in bands ?

Damian: Well Stephe, I think this is where we have a problem because I think your definition of super group is lacking when you consider members of SNI, WHERE IT ENDS, PROMISE KEPT, YOUNGBLOOD, and BSE coming together and forming a band. I hardly consider it "super". I kind of consider it a group of failures admitting defeat.

Mike: We kind of call it the "transformer syndrome" where you get ten shitty transformers and they are all really small and then you put the ten transformers together and they form this awesome transformer. We were trying to be a super group, which is why we had Chris in the band in the beginning.

**There is something whereby folks know each other from bands and they know how each other can play that facilitates this phenomenon.**

Mike: There is a small pool of musicians to take from and not many people play instruments so you gotta take what you can get.

Jonah: You take four people that have similar music tastes. Everybody in our band likes hardcore AND we all like the same kind of hardcore.

Damian: I also think that everyone gets into punk rock and they all have their group of friends. A year later kids get disinterested and try out other scenes and what you are

eventually left with is the whittling off. You look around and go "Man, there is only a couple of us left. Let's form a band." It's either this or nothing.

**Can you tell us about your demo. Where did you record it ? How did you go about**

**putting it together ?**

Damian: We recorded it in Jesse's (drummer for SCARE TACTIC) basement. Jesse was kind enough to let us use his basement. Martin was kind enough to serve as our Steve Albini for our NIRVANA. We just



recorded and... I didn't have the lyrics for a lot of the songs and I also get really excited when I sing and I forget what I was thinking and it was like "Dammit, what was that next verse", so I leave big spaces, but the demo turned out okay.

**Did you dub copies ? I have seen lots of covers floating around for this ?**

Jonah: When we were making the demos I was looking through this book I had on "Samurai" movies. I was thinking of what to put on the cover and there were some cool pictures like i) this guy getting shot with 14 arrows and ii) three old men giving cheers. Then Mike sent me this picture of iii) this guy from the Great Depression holding up a sign, so those were the three covers. I just couldn't decide on one.

Damian: I think we were making fun of our test press of a test press of a tour press exclusivity. Every single demo has a different cover. For anyone who wants to trade mine has Dez Cadena on the cover. I am willing to trade it for the NEGATIVE APPROACH single, first press only (laughter) and the ONE BLOOD LP. It is kind of ridiculous where people are putting out 9 collectible record covers. If you add up all these collectible covers there is 4,000 of this record out there.

**What do you hope to accomplish as a band?**

Mike: We discussed early on that we were never going to tour. I don't like touring. We just wanted to make cool songs and put a record out and be like other bands.

Jonah: For me the goal of this band was met right away when we played a show because I have been in other bands where we didn't play out. Just being on the radio show or as part of this show's demo feature was incredibly exciting. And then it started happening for the other bands I was in. Damian: One of our goals is to just be in a band because for the first time there is a vibrant scene in Toronto for as far as hardcore goes that doesn't center around an x-member - well I suppose that is not true - as many x-member or as many x-Chris Colohan x-member bands. So you have NO WARNING, HAYMAKER, OUR WAR, ADVERSARY, CAREER SUICIDE, and SCARE TACTICS. There are a lot of really good demos and you have a lot of good bands around so it is just a really exciting time to play in a band. This must have been what it was like at the 9:30 Club (laughter). Jonah: Well Mike wore a VOID shirt once so it is almost the same.

**Can you tell us about the lyrical topics that you sing about ?**

Mike: like being depressed, being fucked up, life in the city, robbing banks, shit like that. Josh: It's about life being fucked up and what you can do about it without driving yourself insane.

Damian: When I joined the band I had just

broken up with my girlfriend at the time, so every single song I wrote was about how much I hated her. It's kind of scary when you look around and everyone is as scared and insecure as you, to quote PROPAGANDA. We are all from really different backgrounds and we are all sad.

**What is your favourite song from a lyrical standpoint and why ?**

Damian: It is the slowest song we have where there is a debate over what the lyrics should be. I think the song should be about being the last one standing from a survivalist standpoint and Mike thinks it should be a poem. It's like about everyday how you see something horrible and you wonder why people don't do anything to stop it. If I was in their shoes I would do whatever it took to survive.

Mike: Mine is "Circling the Drain" which is a theme that developed out of the summer I had. I just had the worst summer ever and whatever could go wrong did go wrong and things just kept on snowballing and getting worse. The song is a testament to how things are for people's everyday lives.

Jonah: I don't know any of the lyrics but from a musical standpoint my favourite song is "Bag of Dirt".

Sandy: Musically, I like "The Land of Nod". I like the hook of it and I like the line "Get on your knees cop" It sounds pretty powerful.

Josh: I like the "Achilles List" which is about de-working your job and making your job actually pay what you deserve to get. Stealing from your employer.

**How can people get in touch with you ?**

They can write to us at 34 Park Blvd. / Toronto, ON / M8W 1G8 / Canada / e-mail: [fukkedup@hotmail.com](mailto:fukkedup@hotmail.com).

*We try and get a band to play the radio show at least once a month on the first Sunday of the month. If you are in a band and would like to play get in touch with us. Scare Tactic will be playing on November 4th at 10:30 pm (EST). For folks outside of our listening area try tuning in at [www.ciut.fm](http://www.ciut.fm).*

# EQUALIZING DISTORT

**EQUALIZING-X-DISTORT MONTHLY** is an extension of the weekly radio show heard on CIUT 89.5 FM every Sunday nights from 10:00pm 'til midnight (Hosts: Martin Farkas, Noah Gadke, Simon Harvey and Stephe Perry).

The show dedicates itself to the underground hardcore punk scene. There is a particular emphasis on international releases in the developing power violence, d-beat, crust, grind, straight edge, and scream-o scenes, which means we play material like Razor's Edge, Diskonio, 9 Shocks Terror, What Happens Next, Limp Wrist, Tragedy, Life's Halt, and Haymaker.

There is a weekly demo feature (paying homage to the cassette format), weekly event listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look at releases.

**Equalizing-X-Distort**

CIUT 89.5 FM

Sundays 10:00 pm - midnight

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## CIUT 89.5 FM - "Equalizing Distort" Top 10 Hardcore Releases for September 2001

Band	Title	Format	Label
1. Tear It Up / Epileptic Terror Attack	split	LP	DeadAlive
2. Cripus Attacks	Red Black Blood attack	CD	Soda Jerk
3. Dumbstruck	And We All Fall Down	LP	625 Prod'ns
4. Point of Few	Silence	ep	625 Prod'ns
5. Fields of Fire	Keep It Alive	CD	Phyte
6. Life's Halt / What Happens Next ?	Start Something	LP	625 Prod'ns
7. JR Ewing	the Perfect Drama	10"	Coalition
8. Scrotum Grinder	The Greatest Sonic .....	LP	Prank
9. Scholastic Deth	Shackle Me not	ep	625 Prod'ns
10. Strong Intention	What else can we do but...	LP	Six Weeks

Equalizing Distort can be heard every Sunday night on CIUT 89.5 FM at 10:00 pm. The top 10 countdown can be heard in its entirety, complete with previews of the picks and analysis on the previous month in hardcore, on the last Sunday of the month.

# reviews

## Ahiro "One People, One Mind, Fight Fight Fight" ep

Fastcore combined with pop punk, that's a new one. It's kind of like hearing a distorted version of FUCK ON THE BEACH doing a duet with HI STANDARD. The added dimension that AHIRO brings to the table is some slow almost breakdown parts that add emphasis and almost contemplative moments within the song. It adds a dimension to their thrash. My only complaint is that the recording overmodulates too much, even for my peanut gallery tastes, but that shouldn't prevent you from getting in on AHIRO.

(Asian Man Records / P.O. Box 35585 / Monte Sereno, CA / 95030 / USA / e-mail: [brucelee@pacbell.net](mailto:brucelee@pacbell.net))



## As One demo

AS ONE have graduated out of the Warzone sound and started incorporating more new school sounds like NO JUSTICE and SHARK ATTACK. AS ONE have added thrash to their sound. The vocals sound a bit more like something from a Hydra Head band, but something more unique. An awesome new local release that is raw and angry and incredible. The SONS OF ISHMAEL cover is funny, too. By way of post script, the band has changed their name to SCARE TACTIC and this demo will be the first release on a new local label called Solomon Method.

(e-mail: [upyourasswithallyourgossip@hotmail.com](mailto:upyourasswithallyourgossip@hotmail.com))



## Class Assassins "No Justice No Peace" ep

Solid street punk with pub like choruses featuring ex-members of DIRECT ACTION, CHRONIC SUBMISSION, and HOCKEY TEETH. They give us one original and a cover of "One Tin Soldier". The original has that ringing rock sound. The leads sound like something out of "90210", but the call-to-arms message is righteous and the soccer-like chants save this as a punk release. The cover is an excellent choice with the message about greed, but it seems a little bit done as DIRECT ACTION had covered this song back in the 80's. Given that one of the members of the CLASS ASSASSINS was in that band, this choice of cover cheats us in the innovation dept. A punk version of "One Tin Soldier" has been done before and by you no less. But having said this, I should note that I do like the CLASS ASSASSINS version with the beefed up back up vocals. It would have been much cooler to have given us something by DIRECT ACTION or CHRONIC SUBMISSION.

(Insurgence Records / 2 Bloor Street West, Suite 100-184 / Toronto, ON / M4W 3E2 / Canada)



## Colt Seavers ep

Garage-core with an emphasis on brevity. Similar to TEEN CRUD COMBO with that balls out rock feeling and yet similar to BORIS THE SPRINKLER with the poppy goofy material. The recording is loud and overmodulates but in a lo fi kind of way that makes it seem like the singer is singing through a bullhorn. 13 songs on a 7" has this competing with the current crop of fastcore bands, but COLT SEEVERS is for the wild child of the scene.

(Kindspeech Records / Lindenstr. 32 / 49593 Bersenbruck / Germany / e-mail: [kindspeech@freenet.de](mailto:kindspeech@freenet.de))



## Da Bloody Gashes "Pedal to the Metal" LP

Sludgy rock in the vein of the early OG scene with emphasis on trashy minimal style rock 'n roll. The vocals are more distorted sounding and gives the air that these folks probably play way loud in a live setting. With a full band and some recycled BLACK SABBATH riffs these guys sound like a more accoustic version of the Scandi-rok scene. (Total Zero / P.O. Box 32046 / 901 Ste. Catherine E. / Montreal, QC / H2L 2E0 / Canada)



## Epileptic Terror Attack LP

Another great recording of FU's influenced hardcore from this Swedish outfit. They have added the bassist from DS-13 and sound even more frantic. Fans of early Boston hardcore pay attention. 14 blazing tracks about skating hard and being wreckless. It also includes a cover of "Beverly Hills" by the CIRCLE JERKS.

(Deranged Records / P.O. Box 543, Station P / Toronto, ON / M5S 2T1 / Canada)



## Fuck on the Beach "Endless Summer" LP

Surfs up with the new FOTB. Sounding more heavy and plodding for fastcore everything from the wind up parts to the full on blast beats sound a shade slower. But generally it is a lot thicker and even takes on elements of d-beat on songs like "Too Sad to be Alone". Very DROP DEAD like in delivery in terms of the speed and the vocal style.

(Slap-a-Ham / P.O. Box 420843 / San Francisco, CA / 94142-0843 / USA)



## Guyana Punch Line "Irritainment" LP

This is the best recording I have heard from GPL. The hardcore parts are very ferocious sounding and a very cascading the way In/Humanity sounded. The potshots at emo are hilarious with "Tears on the Backpack" and "Are you Brian Emo?". They develop dramatic tension in a way that is less drawn out. This is very tight sounding for GPL and there are 21 new songs on this release. There are some good samples. The "Songs to disturb the comfortable songs to comfort the disturbed" piece on the back cover reads like NATION OF ULYSSES "13 Point Program to Destroy America" mantra.

(Prank / P.O. Box 410892 / San Francisco, CA / 54141-0892 / USA)



## I Quit! "That's It..." ep

Playing a hybrid of Thrash and grind, this record is so fuckin' urgent sounding. Featuring one of the members from MONSTER this thing blazes, but has less in the youth crew vein and more in the speed and hardcore side of the equation. This shreds. (Busted Heads Records / box 275 / 901 06 Umea / Sweden)



## Jellyroll Rockheads "Flowers for Nothing" ep

The second JRR release has a bigger production sound (except "Worshit of Youth") while retaining the energy of their manic skate thrash sound. This is one of Japan's most crucial band's at the moment. Two tracks ("I'm at My Wit's End" and "Fade Out") have been re-recorded from their first demo that came out before "Mild and Intense" and they are my favourite so I am glad they saw the light of day. I do hope more of that demo comes out, but I am still very happy to hear urgent, frantic and anthemic material. Makes you realize that every wave of hardcore has their MINOR THREAT.

(Mangrove Records / 3F ACP Bldg / 4-23-5 Koenji-Minami / Sugunami / Tokyo 166-0003 / Japan)



## Jilted "Follia Omicide" ep

On first listen, this record reminded me of something that should have been on the legendary "P.E.A.C.E." comp. The production sounds somewhere along the lines of a lazier G.I.S.M. or VICIOUS CIRCLE meets a slower NEGAZIONE. The recording is raw, fast and pissed as proclaimed, but more along the lines of the latter day Minneapolis scene as the "When Hell Freeze Over" comp represents. The cover of NEGATIVE APPROACH's "Tied Down" is a bonus.

(Angry Records / c/o Fulvio Dogliotti / C.P. 280 / 15100 Alessandria / Italy / e-mail: [angryrcc@iol.it](mailto:angryrcc@iol.it))



## Minor Threat / Youth Brigade "Demos" LP

Holy Fuck. Where the hell did this come from? The first MINOR THREAT demo recorded in 1981, which sounds very much like the first eps with a

rougher edges. But it's fuckin' cool to hear. And then the YOUTH BRIGADE demo which contains a whole bunch of unreleased songs along with earlier recordings of tracks like "Moral Majority". This bootleg revisits that early DC scene and you get a sense of the political dynamic behind YOUTH BRIGADE and the more carefree fun element behind MINOR THREAT. Try and get this as it is limited to 1000 copies. (Recollect records / Austria)

#### Not! Demo

Bandana thrash from Buffalo featuring members from THEY LIVE and PROJECT GRIZZLY. My favourite song is "(Dance by the 'O') Live by the 'X'". It's got a youth crew sound which is somewhat standard for bands from Buffalo, but they add elements of skate thrash. The lyrics are punny. Overall, it's an intelligent release from a humour standpoint and a good one for bandana thrashers. This is part of the Buffalo basement renaissance. (Not! / 99 Custer Street / Buffalo, NY / 14214 / USA / e-mail: xxthrashordiexx@aol.com)

#### Riot '99 "Destroy the City" ep

An awesome street punk band from Toronto barking back to the "Riot City" and "No Future" days. RIOT '99 feature a recently transplanted Drew from Australia's STANLEY KNIFE and Taras from Edmonton's THE GLORY STOMPERS. But Riot '99's sound is defined by the brother and sister team of Howard and Nathalie - they encompass much of the early song structures that made the CLASH legendary. Throw in some army chants a la ABRASIVE WHEELS and group pub-like choruses and you've got a modern day street punk group to contend with. My favourite line is "Start a riot on Queen Street West, tonight." Putting the Bollocks back into punk, indeed.

(Riot Records / c/o Taras O. / P.O. Box 462 / 34 Adelaide Street East / Toronto, ON / M5C 2J5 / www.riot99.com)

#### Spazm 151 LP

Manic doom-core played at a thrash pace. Take one part DISCHARGE and mix it with one part TEAR IT UP, one part DOWN IN FLAMES and one part POISON IDEA. I don't remember their ep sounding this good.

(Mind Control Records / 1012 Brodie Street / Austin, TX / 78704 / USA)

#### Strong Intention "What else can we do but fight back" LP

STRONG INTENTION remind me of what CITIZENS ARREST would sound like if they started today. They have a little more power violence edge to them while still retaining hooks and breakdowns. And they try to reach the speeds of DROP DEAD while sounding as pissed off as INFEST. Their songs are chocked full of messages, backed up by graphics tackling issues like middle east peace, work, racism, consumption, and general all-round resistance.

(Six Weeks / 225 Lincoln Ave., Cotati, CA / 94931 / USA)

#### Swarrm "Against Again" CD

What a complex blend of various styles of hardcore, largely relying on grind, but some of this is particularly heavy and at other times there are layered emo structures. There is also some pretense to the burning spirits sound, but it is all part of the mix, as opposed to the defining structure. The SWARRM sound like a speedier, more tortured version of ENVY with loads of stop and starts. The vocals never dip below a throaty gargled scream and creates a frantic interplay with the guitar noodling. The SWARRM represent the next level of emo-violence as more of a hardcore band. It should also be noted that this is the Japanese band, not the defunct band from Toronto.

(God Door Record / 7-1-7 Udezuka-cho / Nagata-ku / Kobe City / 653-0036 / Japan / e-mail: kapo@dj8.sonnet.ne.jp)

#### Zero Tolerance Task Force "Corporate Scum" ep

Early sounding LA punk mixed with some of the quirky elements of the Texas sound. If you took a martini mixer and shook early BUTTHOLE SURFERS into a shaker filled the ANGRY SAMOANS and BLACK FLAG you would start to comprehend ZERO TOLERANCE TASK FORCE.

Venomous, depressing, raw, with some great ranting a la FEEDERZ or the CRUCIFUCKS. This record of lo fi garage thrash really grows on you. (Bandwagon / P.O. Box 44338 / Tucson, AZ / 85733 / USA)

## rumourmill

The AS ONE demo (reviewed earlier) will be released as a 7" by a new label from Pickering called Solomon Method. For fans of CHARLES BRONSON meets SHARK ATTACK it is a must have. They have changed their name to SCARE TACTIC. \* The band FUCK JONAH has metamorphosized into CAREER SUICIDE and have recorded an early F.U.'s inspired masterpiece. I hope this demo gets released. \* RECENSION, the best power violence band in Canada, has called it a day. Their split with SEARCHING FOR CHIN just came out. One of their singers, Steve Mueller, is joining forces with the mighty OXBAKER, from St. Thomas. \*

OXBAKER have a split with HAYMAKER that just came out on Deep Six. OXBAKER are also poised to release some material on 625 Productions, a perfect label for them. \* HAYMAKER have just finished their recording for the LP with the Pushead artwork. They will be working on a split LP with DUMBSTRUCK (x-HERESY) as their next project. \* Jeff from HAYMAKER is playing guitar in a new band called OUR WAR.

They have a 7 song demo out and are to release a 10" on Deranged in the new year. \* The A.W.O.W. kids are now called NO WARNING. They have a new ep out on Martyr Records, which has been re-released as a CD along with their demo on Bridge Nine. \* RUINATION have a split with Holland's POINT OF FEW coming out. Jaime Towns has joined the band on bass. They have recorded new material which includes covers of MINOR THREAT, SIEGE, and NEGATIVE FX. Their first ep is being re-issued by No Idea. Good luck trying to find the "Seven Deadly Sins" boxset that just came out. But I think you can find that "First Year" CD of all their stuff through +/-.

\* Andy from RUINATION / BLOODPACT has started a new band called CAR CRASH that is rumoured to sound like MOTORHEAD meets G.I.S.M. \* LEGION666 have a new split LP with Brazil's SICK TERROR, which should be out in November. LEGION666 are working on another split with a MEGIDDO, which sees them doing a cover of SODOM's "Outbreak of Evil". \* Pat Lazo has left LEGION666 to start ADVERSARY with Joel Fisher from SKEW-G and Ryan Kennedy from the TET OFFENSIVE. They have elements of bandana thrash, d-beat leads, and new school sXe vocals. They have a demo that just came out. \* RIOT '99 have had a line up change and have started playing out again. They have a new guitarist and a new bassist and new songs. \* The CLASS ASSASSINS have a new ep out on Insurgence. They are in the studio for the month of November recording a full length. With members of DIRECT ACTION and CHRONIC SUBMISSION it's gonna be good. \* Ugly Pop just announced that they will be releasing a WARHEAD vinyl release which will contain material of their CD from '93 and their ep from '95. \* The Hardcore Hotline has been resuscitated at (416) 535-8184 for show listings. \* The El Mo is dead as of November 4th. \*

